

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of collaborative voting, comprising:
 - 5 receiving a request for voter voting information;
 - providing the requested voter voting information in an anonymous manner such that the identities of individual voters are not disclosed; and
 - receiving a vote based on the voter voting
- 10 information.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request for voter voting information includes receiving a selection of one or more voter categories for which voter
- 15 voting information is to be provided.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on one or more of age, race, gender, income level, occupation, and political party
- 20 affiliation.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on demographic information.
- 25 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on voter affiliations with other voters.
- 30 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the voter affiliations with other voters are identified by a group identifier.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes outputting the voter voting information in a graphical form on a display device.

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8. The method of claim 2, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter voting information for each of the one or more voter categories selected.

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9. The method of claim 2, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

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10. The method of claim 8, wherein providing the requested voter voting information further includes providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing a dynamically updated display of the requested voter voting information.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter comments entered by voters included in the voter voting information.

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13. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for voter voting information includes a request for voter voting

information for voters having similar characteristics as a user that submitted the request.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the
5 requested voter voting information includes:

retrieving characteristics for the user; and
searching a voter database for voter entries
corresponding to one or more of the characteristics for
the user.

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15. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing a ranking of an amount of similarity between other voters' characteristics and the user's characteristics.

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16. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a vote based on the voter voting information includes receiving an indication of whether the vote is permanent or non-final.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein if the vote is non-final, the vote may be changed within a predetermined period of time from when the vote was received.

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18. The method of claim 1, wherein the voter voting information includes information regarding non-final votes and permanent votes cast by voters, and wherein providing the voter voting information includes providing non-final votes in a format different from permanent votes.

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19. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing an indication of the vote in association
with voter characteristic information of the voter that
submitted the vote.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein storing an
indication of the vote further includes storing an
indication of the status of the vote as being either
non-final or permanent.

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21. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for providing collaborative voting, comprising:
first instructions for receiving a request for voter
voting information;
15 second instructions for providing the requested
voter voting information in an anonymous manner such that
the identities of individual voters are not disclosed;
and
third instructions for receiving a vote based on the
20 voter voting information.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein
the first instructions for receiving a request for voter
voting information include instructions for receiving a
25 selection of one or more voter categories for which voter
voting information is to be provided.

23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein
the one or more voter categories are based on one or more
30 of age, race, gender, income level, occupation, and
political party affiliation.

24. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on demographic information.

5 25. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on voter affiliations with other voters.

10 26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the voter affiliations with other voters are identified by a group identifier.

15 27. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for outputting the voter voting information in a graphical form on a display device.

20 28. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing voter voting information for each of the one or more voter categories selected.

25 29. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

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30. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter

voting information further include instructions for providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

5 31. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing a dynamically updated display of the requested voter voting information.

10 32. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing voter comments entered by voters included in the voter
15 voting information.

20 33. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the request for voter voting information includes a request for voter voting information for voters having similar characteristics as a user that submitted the
request.

25 34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include:

 instructions for retrieving characteristics for the user; and

 instructions for searching a voter database for voter entries corresponding to one or more of the
30 characteristics for the user.

35. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein
the second instructions for providing the requested voter
voting information include instructions for providing a
ranking of an amount of similarity between other voters'
5 characteristics and the user's characteristics.

36. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein
the third instructions for receiving a vote based on the
voter voting information include instructions for
10 receiving an indication of whether the vote is permanent
or non-final.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein if
the vote is non-final, the vote may be changed within a
15 predetermined period of time from when the vote was
received.

38. The computer program product of 21, wherein the
voter voting information includes information regarding
20 non-final votes and permanent votes cast by voters, and
wherein the second instructions for providing the voter
voting information include instructions for providing
non-final votes in a format different from permanent
votes.

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39. The computer program product of claim 21, further
comprising:
 fourth instructions for storing an indication of the
 vote in association with voter characteristic information
30 of the voter that submitted the vote.

40. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein
the fourth instructions for storing an indication of the
vote further include instructions for storing an
indication of the status of the vote as being either
5 non-final or permanent.

41. An apparatus for providing collaborative voting,
comprising:

means for receiving a request for voter voting
10 information;
means for providing the requested voter voting
information in an anonymous manner such that the
identities of individual voters are not disclosed; and
means for receiving a vote based on the voter voting
15 information.

42. A method for providing collaborative voting,
comprising:

a first interface through which a selection of one
20 or more voter characteristics is received, wherein a
search of voter voting information is performed based on
the selection of one or more voter characteristics; and
a second interface through which results of the
search of voter voting information are provided in an
25 anonymous manner such that the identities of individual
voters are not disclosed.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface
includes a field for entering a group identifier as one
30 of the one or more voter characteristics.

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44. The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface includes a field for selecting an option to find voter voting information for voters have characteristics similar to a user of the first interface.

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45. The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface includes a plurality of fields for selecting the one or more voter characteristics and a plurality of corresponding fields for selecting whether a voter having 10 a corresponding one of the one or more voter characteristics is to be included in the search results or not included in the search results.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface 15 includes a portion for outputting results of the search of voter voting information for each of the one or more selected voter characteristics.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the second interface 20 further includes a portion for outputting results of the search of voter voting information for a combination of the one or more selected voter characteristics.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface 25 is dynamically updated.

49. The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface includes a field for outputting individual voter profiles 30 of voters included in the results of the search of voter voting information.

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50. The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface includes a field for outputting comments submitted by individual voters included in the results of the search of the voter voting information.

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51. The method of claim 42, further comprising a third interface through which a user may submit a vote, wherein when the user submits the vote, the second interface is updated.

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